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ABSTRACT

In a longitudinal study of student performance at Harper College, a sample of full-time and part-time students who enrolled at the college in the fall semesters during the years 1967 through 1972 was studied. The results of the study showed that in 1969 and 1970 more students were leaving before they accumulated 15 hours credit, and fewer were completing the college's programs. The trend was reversed in the later years, with students persisting at higher levels. The average GPA of the students was higher in the last three years than in any of the previous three years. The factor affecting GPA most was age, with students 21 and over earning half a grade point higher average than those students under 21 years of age. In addition, students enrolled in career courses earned about one-fifth of a grade point higher than did those in baccalaureate-oriented courses. The details of the study are provided in three tables. (Author/DB)

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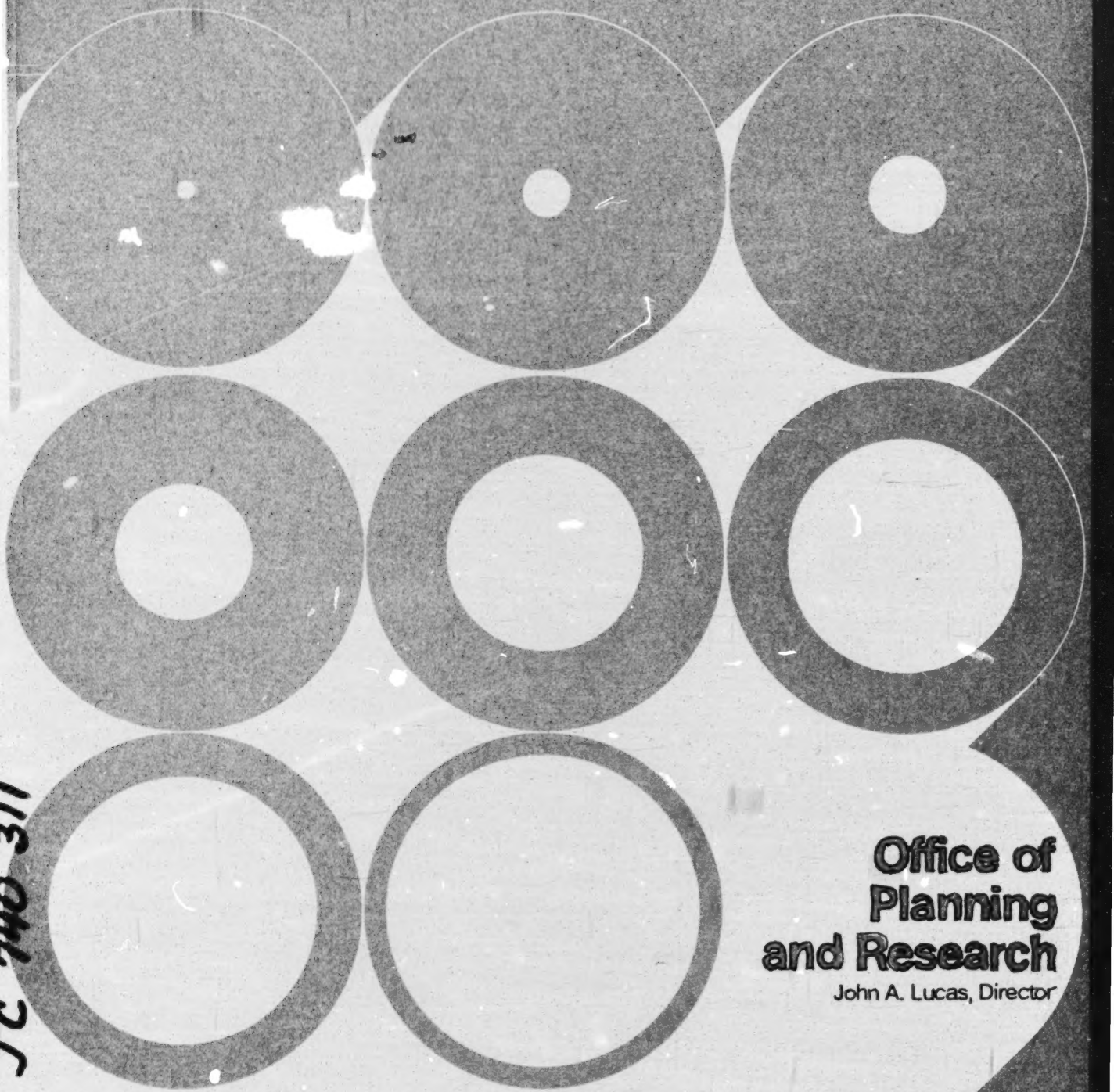
William Rainey Harper College

Longitudinal Study and Grade Performance of Students Entering Harper College—Years 1967-1972

Volume V, No. 8, April 4, 1974



Office of Planning and Research

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JC 740 311

Longitudinal studies are designed to determine the probability of how students will perform at Harper over a period of years. These studies differ from student follow-up studies in that they sample students as they begin enrollment at Harper. Follow-up studies, on the other hand, sample students who have already reached a specified achievement level (alumni status or pass between 12 and 48 credit hours) at Harper. Furthermore, this longitudinal study only follows performance at Harper while follow-up studies follow the student wherever he or she goes. In this longitudinal study a sample of full-time and part-time students were followed who began enrollment at Harper in the fall semesters of 1967 through 1972.

The results of these studies produced the following conclusions:

1. In 1969 and 1970 more students were leaving before accumulating 15 hours and fewer were completing programs here. However, in the last few years the trend has reversed and students appear now to be persisting at the levels reached in 1967 and 1968. This means that 55 to 56% of full-time students returned the following year after starting and at least another 35% come back at a later time so that now 90% of full-time students will return one or more years after starting and at least 31% will accumulate 48 hours or more while at Harper. For those who start as part-time students 57% or more will return one year or later from the time of starting and over 12% will accumulate 24 credit hours or more.

2. The average GPA of students at Harper has been higher in the last 3 years as compared to the average GPA of the three previous years. In table 3 a Fall 1972 grade analysis shows which factors affect GPA. The table shows day and evening GPA are about equal as are part-time and full-time GPA's. The big factor is age as students 21 and over earn a half a grade point higher average than students under 21. Also students enrolled in career courses earn about 1/5 of a gradepoint higher than bacculaureate oriented courses.

The details of the study are shown in the following three tables.

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TABLE 1

LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF FULL-TIME STUDENT PROGRESS AT HARPER

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Mean cum. GPA	2.04	1.92	2.04	2.23	2.15	2.38
Mean cum. hrs. attempted	47.5	37.5	29.0	32.0	35.2	26.5
Mean cum. hrs. passed	42.1	31.0	24.0	28.4	32.1	24.4
Percent registered one year later	67.0	51.0	34.0	42.0	56.5	55.5
Percent not registered one year later, but returned another time	15.0	37.0	36.0	35.0	23.0	0
Percent who never returned	18.0	12.0	30.0	23.0	20.5	44.5
Average number of semesters registered	4.20	3.46	2.82	3.02	3.17	2.11
Percent passing under 24 hours	28.0	42.0	56.9	50.0	42.5	32.0
24 - 35 hours	14.0	24.0	13.7	14.0	16.0	62.5
36 - 47 hours	13.0	7.0	9.5	10.0	10.5	5.5
Over 48 hours	45.0	27.0	19.9	26.0	31.0	0
Sample size	100	100	211	266	200	200
Mean age (as of Sept. 1 of particular year)	18.4 N-100	18.9 N-99	18.8 N-204	19.5 N-254	18.4 N-192	19.1 N-172
Mean ACT composite	19.4 N-80	20.0 N-84	17.9 N-193	20.3 N-205	19.5 N-50	19.8 N-60
Mean high school percentile rank	36.9 N-73	43.5 N-54	32.5 N-185	41.4 N-227	44.1 N-133	49.5 N-113

TABLE 2

LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF PART-TIME STUDENT PROGRESS AT HARPER

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Mean cum. GPA	2.27	2.02	2.10	2.22	2.31	2.16
Mean cum. hrs. attempted	13.7	11.1	11.6	11.5	11.1	8.6
Mean cum. hrs. passed	12.4	9.3	9.9	9.8	9.7	6.7
Percent registered one year later	30.0	22.0	26.0	25.0	29.0	28.0
Percent not registered one year later, but returned another time	29.0	30.0	22.0	27.0	28.0	0
Percent who never returned	41.0	48.0	52.0	48.0	43.0	72.0
Average number of semesters registered	2.82	2.29	2.39	2.11	2.14	1.57
Percent passing under 12 hours	69.5	76.5	74.5	75.0	70.0	80.5
12 - 23 hours	14.0	13.0	11.5	13.0	19.5	17.0
24 - 35 hours	5.5	5.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	2.5
36 - 47 hours	4.0	1.5	4.5	4.5	3.5	0
Over 48 hours	7.0	4.0	5.5	3.5	2.0	0
Sample size	200	200	200	200	200	200
Mean age (as of Sept. 1 of particular year)	26.8 N-198	26.2 N-198	26.9 N-196	26.1 N-182	25.9 N-190	25.3 N-168
Mean ACT composite	17.8 N-18	17.9 N-16	16.1 N-10	19.9 N-22	19.2 N-18	18.8 N-13
Mean high school percentile rank	31.5 N-15	36.7 N-6	32.9 N-17	34.7 N-17	34.5 N-22	32.5 N-33

TABLE 3

GRADE PERFORMANCE OF HARPER STUDENTS FALL 1972

	Number	Hours Attempted	Hours Passed	Honor Points	Average Hours Attempted	Average Hours Passed	Average Percent Hours Passed	Average GPA
Day under 21 F-T	70	1025(-6)	879	2056	14.6	12.6	85.8	2.02
Day under 21 P-T	30	251	160	453	8.4	5.3	63.8	1.80
Total day under 21	100	1276(-6)	1039	2509	12.7	10.4	81.4	1.98
Day 21 & over F-T	29	413(-4)	341	961	14.2	11.8	82.6	2.35
Day 21 & over P-T	71	450(-7)	386	1074	6.3	5.4	85.8	2.42
Total day 21 & over	100	863(-11)	727	2035	8.6	7.3	84.2	2.39
Evening under 21 F-T	18	168*	138*	335	9.3*	7.7*	82.1	1.99
Evening under 21 P-T	82	406	317	785	5.0	3.9	78.1	1.93
Total evening under 21	100	574	455	1120	5.7	4.6	79.3	1.95
Evening 21 and over F-T	2	24	12	36	12.0	6.0	50.0	1.50
Evening 21 and over P-T	98	418	362	1044	4.3	3.7	86.6	2.50
Total evening 21 and over	100	442	374	1080	4.4	3.7	84.6	2.44
Total under 21	200	1850(-6)	1494	3629	9.3	7.5	80.8	1.97
Total 21 and over	200	1305(-11)	1101	3115	6.5	5.5	84.4	2.41
F-T under 21	87	1193(-6)	1017	2391	13.7	11.7	85.3	2.01
P-T under 21	113	657	477	1238	5.8	4.2	72.6	1.88
F-T over 21	31	437(-4)	353	997	14.1	11.4	80.8	2.30
P-T over 21	169	868(-7)	748	2118	5.1	4.4	86.2	2.46
Career Courses	219courses	667	551	1556	NA	NA	82.6	2.33
Non Career Courses	873courses	2524(-29)	1803	5231	NA	NA	71.4	2.10

*Some F-T students had classes both day and night - only night classes considered.